

From Democrat Wires

COLUMBIA, Ohio.— Florida State's golf team will make its third straight appearance in the NCAA golf championships which opens Monday over the sprawling Ohio State University course.

It also marks the fifth time in FSU's history that the Seminole golfers have participated in the nationals.

Under first year coach Scott Fletcher the Tribe squad has turned in a remarkable

tournament record this spring and will be one of seven teams from District 3 represented in the 38 team field.

"The boys have played with this goal in mind and I'm happy that they got the bid," said Fletcher.

The Seminoles will send six men to tomorrow's tourney although only five will play and the low four for 72-holes will count toward the championship.

Mark Alwin, the consistent performing sophomore and a definite All-America candidate, heads the Tribe contingent to the Buckeye State. He has not finished lower than seventh in any tournament this year.

Also on the team are John Calabria, Mike Cheek, Bobby Huber and Jim Keedy. John Ruby, a freshman, will be the alternate.

The Seminoles have captured five of seven tournaments they have played in so far, including the Florida Intercollegiate Championships and the Cape Coral Invitational.

Bob Clark, concerned with defending his NCAA golf title, wants no part of the pro tour.

The wispy California State at Los Angeles senior does not plan to follow former NCAA champs like Jack Nicklaus and Bob Murphy into pro golf, even if he should bag a second straight individual crown this week at Ohio State.

"That's too hard of a life on the tour," said the 5-foot-9, 140-pounder who played no high school golf.

"Those guys are killing each other out there," said Clark, who conquered the field and 60 mile per hour winds to win the NCAA with a 72-hole total of 298 at Colorado Springs, Colo., last year.

"That week-after-week stuff is a hard grind," he kept on. "I know my size is against me. When we take a college trip now for a couple of weeks, I know I get tired."

Houston, of course, is the team to beat. The Cougars of Coach Dave Williams are on the prowl for their sixth national team title in the last seven seasons and 12th in the last 15.

The players will test the par-72, 7,120-yard Ohio State Scarlet

course in practice rounds Monday.

The East-West best-ball matches Tuesday feature 68 of the top players before the first 18-hole round starts Wednesday. The medal play winds up with a fourth round Saturday.

Clark 23, says his game is sharper than a year ago.

"I'm playing better. My drives are better, and so is my putter," he said. "My game is much more consistent and my mental approach is better."

Added pressure? "Yes, I imagine there will be," he answered. "I'll be a little nervous on that first tee. But I guess there's been pressure ever since I won in Colorado."

The competition will be strong again from the field of 224 individuals and 38 full teams.

Three players, who deadlocked for second three shots behind Clark — Brigham Young's Ray Leach, Indiana's Wayne McDonald and Georgia's Terry Diehl — are back.

From the Tallahassee Democrat

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By JIM CHITWOOD

Democrat Sports Writer

Early this morning Mark Alwin was scheduled to tee off in the NCAA golf championships — his first, but last night he was merely taking it easy when the loudspeaker's page located him at his Columbus, Ohio motel.

As he spoke over the lobby telephone, there was a sureness in Alwin's voice, unmistakably not cocky, that he and his Florida State teammates are ready.

The sophomore whiz of the Seminole golf team, Alwin is heavily counted on to spearhead FSU's bid for a national title — the second such attempt in the past two weeks.

And Alwin, a clear-thinking, soft-spoken lad from Clearwater believes the golf team's drive for national recognition has been pushed along by two other sports.

First, there was the Seminole basketball team that wound up among the top 20 in the country. Then the baseball team followed by finishing runnerup in last week's College World Series.

"Since we started beating everybody this team has really perked up," said Alwin. "Teamwise, I think we've got the best one here."

Yesterday, Alwin warmed up for today's start of the 72-hole tournament over the rolling Ohio State University Scarlet course helping pace the East All-Stars to a 10-8 victory over the West.

He shot a two-under par 70 over the 7,120 yard layout while playing in a foursome which included John Mahaffey of the University of Houston who was the low amateur in last weekend's U. S. Open.

A touted All-American candidate, Alwin didn't begin playing golf seriously until he was 12 when he shunned thoughts of competitive swimming. He goes into the tournament with one of the best competitive averages in the U.S. of 72.4 strokes per round.

Moreover, Mark is a second generation performer in this week's NCAA event.

His father, Bob, was a member of the University of Wisconsin team that participated in the nationals back in 1941. In fact, the tourney that year was also staged at the OSU course.

Before he arrived in the Buckeye State, Alwin said he had heard how difficult the OSU circuit could be. "I shot a 73 in a practice round Monday which isn't too good," he admitted, "but I played better today."

Considered one of the better long ball hitters on the Seminole squad, Alwin thinks driving will play an essential part in his performance during the week. "It's a longer course than most we play," he said, "and tighter too, no room for mistakes."

Alwin hasn't gotten to practice as much as he would like since he's going to school this summer, but it doesn't worry

him. "I practice just to get my rhythm," he says. "You can over do it."

Mark's quick progress from his freshman year has been a welcome surprise to Coach Scotty Fletcher. He was the low scorer for the Seminoles in five major tournaments this year.

The dark-haired 20-year-old thinks his game changed for the better last Christmas. "I really started playing well then," said Alwin. "In a practice round before the Florida Intercollegiate tournament I had a 64. That's when Coach Fletcher gave me the chance."

The faith wasn't unwarranted. Alwin placed second behind teammate Jim Keedy in the event and has been a regular ever since.

Sometimes self-critical, Alwin does not let other things distract him from his game. "I've done some dumb things which could have made a difference," he said, "and I try to correct them. The guys on the team try to help each other also. You've got to always keep thinking out there though."

This is FSU's third straight trip to the national championships, and Coach Fletcher, in his first year at the helm, likes the Seminoles chances. "I feel like we should be favored," he said, "but the competition is tough. Houston, LSU and Texas are all here."

Joining Alwin on the Tribe squad are four seniors, John Calabria, Mike Cheek, Jim Keedy and Jim Huber. A freshman, John Ruby, is the alternate in case of illness or injury.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Bob Fitch, a football star in college, draws raves as a golf coach from his University of Indiana squad, leading the NCAA university division tournament.

The big broad-shouldered Fitch, a Minnesota All-American end, had his Hoosiers resting comfortably five shots ahead of the field heading into today's second round over the Ohio State Scarlet course.

"He's just as important as any player on our team," said Wayne Shirecliff, who shot 74 in the opening round Wednesday when Indiana was dipping one-under-par with 287.

"We wouldn't be where we are if it weren't for him. He really helps us psychologically," Shirecliff said.

The Hoosiers also own the individual lead, thanks to a stunning five-under-par 67 by Don Padgett. The senior-to-be, 21, ran in eight birdie putts ranging from 3 to 30 feet to more than cancel three bogies.

Florida State was back of the front runners with a 300 total. Sophomore Mark Alwin paced the Seminoles in the opening round with a one-under 71.

"The heart of this course is those par 3s," said Padgett.

"You have to beat them."

He birdied three of the four shot holes and lipped a 35-foot birdie put on the fourth par 3, the 180-yard eighth hole.

Padgett led the Big Ten Conference champions' charge Wayne McDonald, who tied for second in the NCAA last year, fired a two-under par 70 and Kenneth Trowbridge carded 76.

Defending champion Houston and Georgia were five shots behind at 292.

Padgett was two shots ahead of the 69s turned in by Tommy

Valentine of Georgia, Steve Foulston of Wichita State and Bill Schumaker of Miami of Ohio. The field of 232 will be trimmed to the low 60 and ties after today's round, heading into the final 36 holes Friday and Saturday over the 7,120-yard layout.

The low 15 teams and ties also will stay in the tournament.

Special to The Democrat

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Florida State's Mark Alwin remained the lone player to carry the Seminole banner into the final 36-holes of the NCAA golf championships here

The five-man FSU squad, however, failed to make the 36-hole cut in the team competition after a second straight day of soaring scores over the Ohio State University course

Alwin, the sophomore whiz from Clearwater, tacked a two-over par 74 to his opening round 71 for a 145 total Thursday to stay alive in the individual running

Despite the fact, his score put him back of the tournament leader Lanny Wadkins of Wake Forest at 139. Alwin was still confident.

"If I hit like I have been and make a few putts fall, I'll

be in good shape," said Alwin.

Putting woes which plagued the Seminoles have handicapped Alwin also. "I'm knocking the pin down on every hole," he said, "but I'm missing six-footers for birdies every other hole."

Alwin said he tired on the back nine Thursday and a couple of bad shots really cost him. "They made the course as easy as they could the past

two days," he said, "but now it gets tougher."

The 20-year-old Alwin said he planned to get some putting practice in before teeing off at noon today. "I have had some trouble reading the greens," he said.

Alwin was optimistic about his chances. "I figure if I shoot about 139 the last two rounds it should be close," he said.

The other Seminole scores

were Mike Cheek 77-75—152; John Calabria 75-80—155; Jim Huber 77-80—157 and Jim Keedy 79-78—157.

"I can't believe we had two rough days in a row," said FSU Coach Scotty Fletcher, obviously disappointed.

FSU was not the only well regarded team that fell. Past champions Florida and LSU, along with Maryland and UCLA, stumbled.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Lanny Wadkins of Wake Forest clung to a two-stroke lead Friday when rain suspended play in the 73rd NCAA university division golf tournament at Ohio State.

The U.S. Walker Cupper had played through the front nine in one-over-par 37 to stand four-under-par for the tournament. He was hanging onto a two-stroke margin over John Mahaffey of Houston, also carding a 37.

Tommy Valentine of Georgia, who had shared second place with Mahaffey at 141 after the second round, shot 38 on the front side and fell three strokes off the pace on the 7,120-yard layout.

Florida State's Mark Alwin had finished 12 holes when the play was suspended. He had been a short ways back of the leaders at 145 going into Friday's round but went seven-over-par in the steady downpour.

"It was raining and lightning," said Alwin, "and I wasn't hitting it so good. My putting is still giving me trouble, but I'm going to try and pull it together Saturday."

Sixty-eight of the field of 118 completed play before the late afternoon thunderstorm. Tournament officials said their third round scores would stand and the players on the course would continue play Saturday where they left off.

The early third lead belonged to Bill Spannuth of Morehead State, Martin West III of North Carolina and Steve Groves of Ohio State, all two-over-par at 218 after 54 holes.

Spannuth, a sophomore from Anderson, Ind., dipped three-under-par with 69 for Friday's best round.

West and Groves both came in at two-under-par 70 to share the clubhouse lead with Spannuth.

Houston carried a five stroke lead into the third round with a four-man total of 584.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — John Mahaffey's brilliant final round of four-under-par 68 Saturday swept Houston from behind to give the Cougars the team and individual NCAA university division golf titles.

Mahaffey, a slim 22-year-old senior, overtook third round leader Lanny Wadkins of Wake Forest with a barrage of five birdies for a four-under-par total of 284 over Ohio State's 7,120-yard Scarlet course.

Houston thundered through the final 18 holes and made up a two-shot deficit on Wake Forest. The Cougars bagged their 12th crown in the last 15 years with 1,172 strokes to 1,182 for the Deacons.

Brigham Young took third place with 1,189, Oklahoma State fourth with 1,190 and Los Angeles State fifth with 1,199.

Mahaffey went into the final 18 holes five shots behind Wadkins. Birdies at 2, 4, 5, 6 and 16 offset a bogey at 7 and swept

the Kerville, Tex., comet to a one-shot triumph over Wadkins.

Ray Leach of Brigham Young came home in third place with 286, Tom Kite of Texas was fourth at 287 and Tom Watson of Stanford and Andy North of Florida tied for fifth with 289.

Defending champion Bob Clark of Los Angeles State fired a one-under-par 71 but finished 12 strokes back at 296.

Mahaffey, who tied for low amateur honors in the U.S. Open last week, passed Wadkins when he chipped in a 25-foot shot for a birdie two at the fifth hole. The Deacon sophomore took a bogey four.

He went two shots ahead with a 10-foot birdie putt on the next hole but Wadkins pulled even with an eight-foot birdie putt at No. 9 after moving to within one with a par on No. 7.

Wadkins missed the 10th green for another bogey and Mahaffey's par put the 5-foot-8, 140-pounder ahead to stay.